WHAT IF? RETURNS☆RIDDLER QUIZZES THE QUESTION☆BADGER STARS IN MULTI-ARTIST MINI SERIES☆POLLARD & GUSTOVICH DO COLBALT BLUE☆SHIELD RETURNS IN NEW SERIES☆DICK TRACY, MS. TREE TURN 50☆PREVIEWS & REVIEWS

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Oct, 26, 1988

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

THE WEEKLY COMICS NEWSLETTER!

Pineapple Army, Justy in the nick of time for 1988

by Alex Kirkland

Viz Comics continues its scheduled plan to bring several major new manga translation series to American comics with the debut of ***Pineapple Army*** and ***Justy*** as bi-weekly comics mini-series this December. ***Justy*** is the original comic on which the very popular and successful animated series was based. Justy Starflare is one of the most powerful espers in the world. A member of the Galactic Patrol, Justy is supposed to keep the world safe from criminal espers, space pirates, evil scientists--and anyone else who might threaten the peace and security of the universe. Joining him in this rather dangerous mission are Trevor and his sisters Jerna and Astalis. Viz emphasizes that all the characters are portrayed realistically, with believable character development that adds a great deal of depth and substance to this sf adventure.

Justy is written and illustrated by Tsuguo Okazaki. The original comics series was published by Shogokukan Publishing Company in Japan; the Viz translations will be done by Satoru Fujii and Dave Smeds. Lettering and minor art retouching will be done here by David Cody Weiss. Meanwhile, the same month will see the debut of ***Pineapple Army***, created and written by Kazuya Kudo, the writer of ***Mai the Psychic Girl*** (which was recently published in its entirety by Eclipse).

Pineapple Army is the story of Jed Goshi, a Japanese-American Vietnam war vet. Goshi is an instructor for an organization, the Civilian Defense Forces, that is formed to protect ordinary civilians from crime and danger. Goshi teaches combat skills and techniques, specializing in urban guerrilla warfare.

Pineapple Army is a comic set in the real world of the 1980's. It is a book of action and adventure that takes place among contemporary political and social affairs.

Joining Kudo on ***Pineapple Army*** is Naoki Urasawa, who illustrates the book. Jim Hudnall, writer of Marvel's ***Strikeforce Morituri***, is working with Satoru Fujii on the translation; Hudnall was also the rewriter of ***Mai the Psychic Girl*** and ***Area 88***. Lea Hernandez, who was also involved in the production of ***Xenon***, will do the lettering and art retouching on ***Pineapple Army***. Rather than using reprinted covers, the book will feature all-new cover paintings by San Francisco artist Darren Ching. Both ***Justy*** and ***Pineapple Army*** will be available in mid-December. Each will be published bi-weekly in 32-page installments that will be priced at $1.75. Viz has said that most of their mini-series will run for nine to twelve issues, featuring faithful reproductions of original Japanese manga, translated and repackaged for the American market.

Dreadstar Moves Into Next Phase Under New Creators

by Cliff Biggers

Jim Starlin's ***Dreadstar***, a cosmic epic that has spanned almost a decade and has been published by Eclipse Comics, Marvel's Epic Comics and First Comics in one form or another, is about to lose its mastermind. Jim Starlin, creator/writer of ***Dreadstar*** (and, for a long while, artist), has decided to break away from the character he has become so associated with. With ***Dreadstar*** #41, which is probably still on the shelves of your local comics shop, Starlin has returned Dreadstar to the space pirate/adventurer roots of the series--a fine place to hand the entire thing over to a new writer. The new writer is Peter David, fan favorite writer of The Incredible Hulk and ***The Spectacular Spider-man*** for Marvel and of ***Star Trek*** and ***Phantom*** for DC. Those of you who are familiar with Peter David's work know that he never merely imitates what has gone before, but manages to bring instead his own offbeat--and most entertaining--touch to the books he works on. With ***Dreadstar*** #42, you'll get to see just how he handles a cosmic hero of the scope of Vanth Dreadstar.

Joining Peter David on ***Dreadstar*** is artist Angel Medina, who has already done art for one issue of ***Dreadstar*** (#39, if you want to look it up) and also worked on the ***Crossroads*** series published by First this past spring and summer. You'll be able to evaluate both Peter David and Angel Medina in ***Dreadstar*** #42, on sale in mid-November.

What's Up, Dox? A New L.E.G.I.O.N., That's What!

by Wayne Lee

Keith Giffen said that the events of ***Invasion!*** would have an effect on the DC Universe, and it appears that he was certainly right! One of the most noticeable effects will reveal itself on January 5th, 1989, when the all-new ***L.E.G.I.O.N. '89*** will be released by DC. The new title will be co-written by Keith Giffen, plotter of ***Invasion!*** and writer of ***Justice League International*** (and artist on ***Legion of Super-Heroes***), and Alan Grant, writer of ***Defective Comics*** and the British series ***Judge Dredd***. The artist on the series will be Barry Kitson, artist on the Catwoman series in ***Action Comics Weekly*** and on the ***Batgirl Special***. He will be joined by ***Batman*** inker Mike DeCarlo.

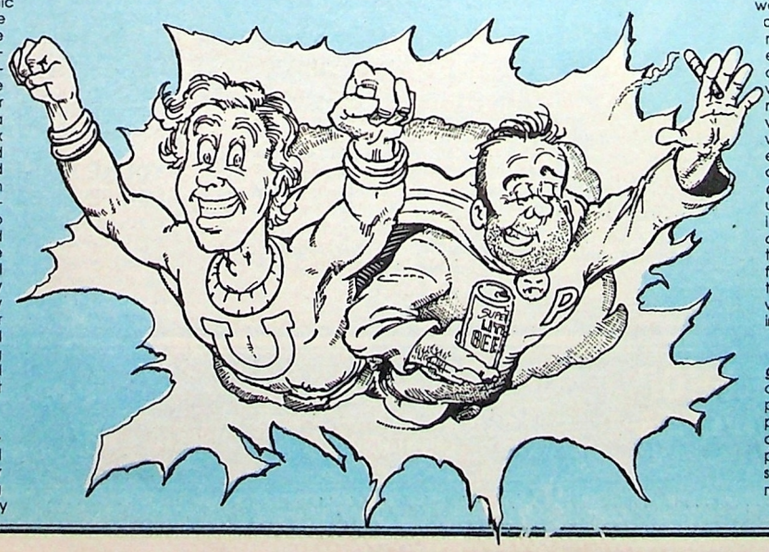
The new series will focus on Vril Dox, ancestor of the Legion of Super-heroes' Brainiac 5 and son of Vril Dox, the new Brainiac. Vril Dox plans to fill the void left by the death of the Green Lantern Corps with a new intergalactic police force. The events of Invasion! show just why such a police force is needed. This leads Dox to put together ***L.E.G.I.O.N. '89***, a team that will include the present-day ancestors of some of the Legion of Super-Heroes. Keith Giffen promises that ***L.E.G.I.O.N. '89*** will have a harder edge than Legion of Super-Heroes or Justice League International. Bob Wayne of DC describes the title as "sort of a Hill Street Blues-style police force meets Star Wars." ***L.E.G.I.O.N. '89*** will be published in DC's New Format; the first issue, priced at $1.50, will reach comics shops on January 5th.

200-plus page *The Collected Ultraguy & Joe Power* debuts in December

by Wayne Lee

Ultraguy & Joe Power, the popular superhero humor strip by Ward Batty and Charlie Williams that has been seen most recently in the pages of ***Comic Shop News*** and the ***Comics Buyer's Guide***, will be featured in a massive 200-plus page trade paperback collection due in December from ParaGraphics titled ***The Collected Ultraguy & Joe Power***. The collection will feature all the strips that have appeared in ***CSN*** and ***CBG***, as well as several longer stories that originally appeared in two comic book series: two issues of ***Trufan Adventure Theatre*** and five issues of ***Boffo Laffs***.

According to writer and co-creator Ward Batty, "Ultraguy (Guy Solomon III) and Joe Power (Joe McGinty) got their amazing powers when they went swimming right after eating (see, Mom *was* right!) and were struck by an incredibly covenant bolt of cosmic energy. What makes the strip so much fun to write is the juxtaposition between the two characters and what they've chosen to do with their powers; Guy became a traditional comic book superhero while Joe did more what you or I would do in the same situation – he went showbiz, capitalizing on his powers to make big money and score heavy with the babes! Now, normal comic book morality would dictate that Guy would be rewarded for his noble choice and Joe punished for selling out. But, in real life and my stories, things just don't work that way."



The Collected Ultraguy & Joe Power will feature eleven of their best adventures ranging from eight to over twenty pages each. "Most of the stories were just titled 'Ultraguy & Joe Power'," says Batty, "But these will include their full origin, 'Superhero Do's & Don'ts with Ultraguy & Joe Power,' 'Ultraguy Gets Married,' and several others including a great time-travel story where our heroes travel back to ancient Rome, the old West and even to Nazi Germany where Guy dresses as Eve Braun and tries to kill Hitler by slipping poison marshmallows into his hot coco! No wonder the critics called Ultraguy & Joe Power 'Better than any movie or nightclub!'"

The collection will also feature some selected other strips by Batty and Williams including "Trufan Adventures" and "Sister No- Mercy The Ninja Nun!"

Says Batty: "This is *the definitive* collection of my and Charlie's comic book work. The comics were, critically, extremely well received. But we started doing comics right after the big black & white boom and when retailers quit ordering virtually every black & white, ***Boffo Laffs*** was ended with #5 and we continued ***Ultraguy and Joe Power*** continued as a regular feature in ***Comic Shop News*** and ***CBG***. But, clearly, these guys were ment for bigger ar.d better things (that's certainly what *they* keep insisting)."

The Collected Ultraguy & Joe Power is a comic sized trade paperback, 200-plus pages with heavy, full color covers, will be priced at $11.95 and should be in shops in mid December.

NEWSBRIEFS

WHAT IF WHAT IF RETURNED?

Marvel Comics' ***What If?***, the title devoted to stories that explored what would happen if certain elements of the Marvel Universe were changed, will be returning as a regularly scheduled title in 1989. ***What If?*** has been on hiatus for quite a while, although Marvel had never said the title was actually dead; there had been talk of doing irregularly scheduled ***What If?*** specials, and in fact one ***What If?*** special issue devoted to Iron Man was published last year. The new run of ***What If?*** should begin in the first half of 1989.

COBALT BLUE GETS GREEN LIGHT AT CALIBER

Cobalt Blue, a creation of **Mike Gustovich**'s that has been out of circulation for several years, will be returning in early 1989 from **Caliber Press.** The original run of ***Cobalt Blue*** was published by Noble Comics, the original publishers of Gustovich's ***Justice Machine***; the book is about the sole surviving member of the Venturians, super soldiers from another time and place.

The ***Cobalt Blue Special***, a two issue series, will be Caliber's first color comics; the 32 page book will contain at least 24 pages of story and art. **Keith Pollard**, currently the artist on the ***Fantastic Four*** for Marvel, will pencil the series; Gustovich will both write and ink both issues.

If the ***Cobalt Blue Special*** series does well, Caliber has plans for either another mini-series or an ongoing ***Cobalt Blue*** series; according to the publisher, just where ***Cobalt Blue*** goes next depends on both sales and Gustovich's schedule.

SHADOW ENGAGED IN SEARCH FOR RING

The Shadow makes his long-awaited return in ***Shadow #20***, on sale December 1st from **DC** (you knew he was coming back, right? After all, they didn't change the title of the book!). Now that he's returned, he really wants his ring back--and he's out to get the rock star who stole it. **Andrew Helfer and Kyle Baker** bring you all the action that men's clouded minds can stand.

TERMINATOR'S PLASMA RIFLE HAS PRIMITIVES OVER A BARREL

Terminator #4 and #5, on sale in mid-October and mid-November respectively, will feature a special two-part story written by **Jack Herman**, illustrated by **Thomas Tenny and Jim Brozman**, and painted by **Rich Powers**. The covers will be done by Chicago illustrator **Ken Call.**

In the two-parter, a Terminator is sent to an island inhabited by primitives; his goal is to set up a machine which will destroy the ozone and the rain forests, thus eliminating the oxygen necessary to support human life. The inhabitants are forced to face a Terminator with nothing more than stone-age weapons. So do they survive for more than a page or two? Pick up ***Terminator*** #4 and #5 and find out!

Incidentally, speaking of ***The Terminator***, **Tony Caputo** of **NOW Comics**, ***Terminator***'s publishers, reports that ***Terminator #1*** is a total sellout and ***Terminator #2*** seems destined for the same fate; the book is selling in the order of 100,000 copies a month now! If you're not one of them, maybe you should find out what you've been missing!

TIGER-X EARNS ITS STRIPES IN REGULAR SERIES

Ben Dunn's ***Tiger-X*** will become a regular bi-monthly series from **Eternity** with ***Tiger-X #4***, on sale in April of 1989. The series will continue to feature **Ben Dunn**'s pencils, but he will be joined by new writer **Paul O'Connor** to continue to tell the tale of the Soviet invasion of the United States.

"Now that ***Ninja High School*** is monthly, I just don't have time to continue writing ***Tiger-X***," Dunn said. "When I read Paul's proposal, I knew he was the right guy for the job. He has a great feel for the characters and for the military aspects of the new technology. I can't wait to get started on his scripts!"

In the original series, the outcome of the war was left hanging; the new series will pick up from the point as the war begins to escalate, and the threat of nuclear action becomes more and more likely.

"The new series will hinge around the Jordy's relationship with ***Tiger-X***, the experimental American battlesuit, and Marlene, the rebel leader. Basically, I've taken Ben's ideas and developed them in a few unexpected directions to keep readers on their toes," O'Connor said.

ECLIPSE OFFERS TIM TRUMAN LIMITED LITHO

Timothy Truman, well known to comics fans for his work on ***Scout: War Shaman*** and other series, is also known as an artist outside the comics field. His work, which focuses on his interest in Native American and early American history, has been exhibited at various galleries. Now, one of his paintings, "Lancaster Rifle (Listening for Ghosts)," which was commissioned as a painting for the Marion Art Gallery's Christmas Invitational Show in Lancaster, PA, is being offered as a gallery-quality fine art lithograph on acid-free paper, reproducing the painting in actual 34" by 22" size. The painting, depicting a wounded Plains Indian warrior in buffalo robes crouching in the snow, cradling his rifle, will be printed in a signed and numbered limited edition of 750 copies, priced at $50 per copy. This is the first print in a series of works along these lines. If you're interested in this superb reproduction of Truman's work, contact your local comics shop immediately and let them know; availability will obviously be very limited--and be sure to let them know that ***CSN*** sent you!

BURNING ISSUES OF THE DAY

We're all pretty familiar with the **Human Torch's** familiar "Flame On" battle-cry, and we've all read stories in which the Torch's flame burned out at an inopportune moment in a battle. (For that matter, remember when the Torch could only flame on for an hour at a time, maximum?) Well, ***Fantastic Four #323*** presents a very different problem for the Torch, when he loses his ability to "flame off." You can rest assured he's pretty hot under the collar about it, too. The same issue will put the FF into action against the Council of Kangs--and if you've been reading ***The Avengers*** lately, you know who we're talking about. **Steve Englehart, Keith Pollard, and Joe Sinnott** will tell you all about the Torch's problem on October 27th.

GALLUP SURVEY PICKS FAVORITE COMIC STRIPS

The Gallup Youth Survey of American teenagers has recently polled people across the nation to find out what was the most popular comic strip in the 13 to 17 year old age group. To no one's surprise, the number one strip was ***Garfield***, Jim Davis' popular series. The second place strip was ***Peanuts*** by Charles Shulz; ***Blondie*** came in third.

ARAMIS HAS SMELL OF SUCCESS FOR CI

Comics Interview has announced a weekly ***Aramis*** mini-series featuring Aramis Merrow, the newest member of the Southern Knights. This miniseries by **Henry Vogel, Mark Propst,** and **Willie Peppers** will tell Aramis' story as well as the secret origins of the Southern Knights. Look for it the first, second, and third weeks in December.

YOUNG MASTER PREPARES FOR FINAL BATTLE

In ***Young Master #7***, on sale in early November from **New Comics**, the Young Master is joined by an unexpected group of allies as he prepares for his final battle with Yagyu in a village of death. "The Hours Before Darkness" is written by **Chuck Dixon** and illustrated by **Val Mayerik**; the issue will also include a back-up story by **Roger Mackenzie** and Mayerik, and text by **Ham Christie.**

DICK TRACY TURNS FIFTY AT BLACKTHORNE

Dick Tracy has set a number of records in his long-running career, but his latest record will be set in the next month, when **Blackthorne** Comics releases the fiftieth issue of ***Dick Tracy Weekly.***

"As we reach our 50th issue, we continue to look at the fan mail--it's tremendous," said **Shel Dorf**, long-time comic strip fan and Blackthorne newspaper reprints editor. "I've worked very hard, along with Steve Schanes and Ann Fera, to make Dick Tracy available to a new generation and we're going to continue to deserve your support."

Blackthorne's ***Dick Tracy Weekly*** isn't actually published weekly currently; instead, a month's output of four issues is printed and shipped at the same time.

Each issue covers approximately 2 months of the strip as it appeared, in chronological order.

Blackthorne's ***Dick Tracy Weekly*** is the first Dick Tracy title in 30 years; at the time that Harvey did its Tracy reprint title, many of the strips had to be censored because **Chester Gould**'s strip was thought to be too strong for young readers--even though the strips had appeared in newspapers all over the country.

meet "OODLES"

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NEWSBRIEFS

FIRST GIVES BADGER A PERSONALITIES PROFILE

One of **First Comics'** most popular characters, ***Badger***, will reach his landmark fiftieth issue next April; the celebration will be highlighted in a special 48-page prestige format book (akin to First Comics fiftieth issue of ***Nexus*** last summer) that will feature a special anniversary romp by **Mike Baron and Ron Lim** as well as a special full-length story by original Badger penciller **Jeff Butler** and inker **Mark Nelson.**

A month later, Badger will be featured in his own four-issue miniseries that will explore all the personalities that make Badger such an interesting and unusual character. The series will be drawn by ***Whisper*** artist **Spyder**, but special sections devoted to the various personalities will be drawn by a variety of guest artists, including **Jeff Butler, Jill Thompson, Mitch O'Connell, Dennis Kitchen,** and others.

IS IT A QUESTION OR A RIDDLE?...

In ***Question #25***, on sale in early December, and ***Question #26***, on sale the second week of January, **Denny O'Neil** and **Denys Cowan** bring Vic Sage up against one of Batman's most puzzling villains: The Riddler. Absent from the pages of Batman for a while, the Riddler makes a return to face off against the faceless hero of Hub City. DC promises us that this Riddler isn't the silly Frank Gorshinesque Riddler some of you may recall; instead, this is a very deadly enemy indeed.

ROACHMILL COLLECTION SCURRIES INTO COMIC SHOPS

One of the quirkier **Dark Horse** titles is ***Roachmill***, **Rich Hedden's** and **Tom McWeeney's** series that features an exterminator who will kill virtually anything for the right price. What some people didn't realize, though, was that ***Roachmill*** had a life prior to its publication by Dark Horse: the character began in his own title from Blackthorne Comics, where four issues were published before Roachmill found a new home at Dark Horse.

In December, Dark Horse will give the new fans who might have missed those early issues a chance to see just what happened; that's when the ***Roachmill Collection Volume One*** will reach comics shops. The 112-page trade paperback, priced at $5.95, will contain the first four Blackthorne issues of ***Roachmill*** by **Hedden and McWeeney.**

A couple of weeks later, in the last part of December, Dark Horse will publish ***Roachmill #5***, which will be part one of a three-issue series-within-a-series. In this storyline, Roachmill is hired to protect a neighborhood from a vicious serial killer who is hunting local prostitutes.

MARVEL UNLEASHES SHIELD'S FURY IN REGULAR SERIES

Following on the success of this year's ***Nick Fury Vs. SHIELD*** mini-series, Nick Fury and SHIELD will be returning to Marvel's line-up sometime next year in a regular title.

No artist has been chosen for the book yet, but **Bob Harras**, writer of the limited series title that has been a sellout with every issue, will be handling the writing honors on the regular title also.

SCARLET PRINCESS TO BE WELL-READ IN DECEMBER

The next volume of the ***Steve Canyon*** series from Kitchen Sink will be The Scarlet Princess; this second volume in the new horizontal-format Steve Canyon series will offer two complete stories from 1955-56.

The 180-page volume will kick off with "Twice Broken Heart," a story that features Summer Smith Olsen and her young son Oley in a story that sends Steve Canyon around the world to find out about a captured American pilot recently released by the Red Chinese.

The second story, "The Scarlet Princess," places Steve in the role of state department escort for Happy Easter and his band of Hooligans, who have been sent to New York City from western China to stop them from becoming an international problem.

This volume will also be the 23rd ***Steve Canyon*** book, picking up from the numbering of the old ***Steve Canyon*** magazine. It will be priced at $13.95.

FREAK OUT? NOT YET...

Larry Shell, publisher of the upcoming trading card set ***Freakards: Portraits of Peculiar People*** (already mentioned in ***CSN***) dropped us a quick line to be sure that you readers know that the cards are right on schedule and should be available in November. If you're looking forward to this trading card set of some of the most unusual freaks in the world, let your local comics shop know.

Incidentally, Larry also sent us a correction: while he was the editor and packager of the original ***Alien Encounters***, he wasn't the publisher--the folks at Fantaco were.

INVADERS STORM THE PAGES OF SUB-MARINER

In ***Sub-Mariner #5***, the history of the prince of Atlantis continues as **Roy** and **Dann Thomas** take the aquatic hero further into World War II, where he is forced to choose sides. The Invaders, the World War II team whose adventures were chronicled in the 1970's in their own title, guest-star (and I guess that tells you which side Namor chose, right?).

Rich Buckler and **Bob McLeod** handle the art honors on ***Sub-Mariner #5***, which will go on sale November 17th.

CECIL KUNKLE HELPS RENEGADE CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Charles A. Wagner's ***Cecil Kunkle***, already the star of three comics as well as a series of strips in the ***Comics Buyers' Guide***, returns in his fourth comic, a ***Christmas Special*** published by **Renegade**. The 32-page black and white comic will follow Cecil as he gets the ultimate Christmas present--plus his mother-in-law moves in. The issue features a cover by **Richard Lynn**, the creator of "The Sons of Liberty.

Look for the ***Cecil Kunkle Christmas Special*** the first week in December.

MS. TREE GUEST ARTIST LINE-UP NO MYSTERY

The line-up of guest artists for the upcoming ***Ms. Tree #50*** has been finalized, according to ***Ms. Tree*** co-creator **Max Allan Collins**. "We had no idea we would receive so many wonderful pinups and congratulatory sketches. I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of these cartoonists," he said.

Will Eisner, Eddie Campbell, Jack Kirby, Michael T. Gilbert, Mike Vosburg, Stan Sakai, Trina Robbins, Joe Staton, Peter Avanzino, Paul Chadwick, Michael Cherkas, Brian Chin, Dan Day, Chuck Fiala, George Freeman, Dennis Fujitake, Brooks Hagan, Tim Hamilton, Batton Lash, Steve LeBlanc, Steve Leialoha, David Leong, William Messner-Lobes, Moebius, Mitch O'Connell, Michael H. Price, Joshua Quagmire, Barb Rausch, Jim Shoop, Howard Simpson, Rick G. Taylor, Valentino, and **Mark Wheatley** will all contribute interior artwork. **Joe Robenstein** has painted an oil portrait of Ms. Tree that will be used as the special issue's back cover.

"You could have knocked me over with a feather when **Jack Kirby** handed over his pencilled illo to me at the San Diego Con," artist **Terry Beatty** said. "An even bigger thrill for me is that Jack approved the publication of my inked version of the drawing. I never thought I'd get a chance to ink Jack Kirby!. The 48-page issue will be on sale in December for $2.75, and will also include a flexi-disc by Max Collins' band Crusin'.

THEY CAME FROM OUTER SPACE TO DESTROY EARTH'S SUPER-HEROES!

DC COMICS PRESENTS A 3-ISSUE EXTRAVAGANZA
A GIFFEN • MANTLO • McFARLANE • SEARS • GORDON • RUBINSTEIN • RUSSELL PRODUCTION

THE INVASION BEGINS IN OCTOBER!

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CSN PREVIEWS & REVIEWS

CSN takes a look at *West Coast Avengersz #42, Pineapple Army #1, Spicy Tales #1, Total Eclipse: The Seraphim Objective,* and *Dr. Fate #1* in this exclusive preview.

by Cliff Biggers

West Coast Avengers has had an identity problem ever since the title began almost four years ago. Rather than seeming like an equal to the ***Avengers*** title that inspired its creation, ***West Coast Avengers*** always seemed a poor relation: the adventures were adequate but uninspired, and the art was competent and nothing more. While the book was popular, it wasn't on very many "favorites" list; most people read it for the characters rather than for each issue's content.

I have a feeling that ***West Coast Avengers #42*** is about to change all that; in one month, West Coast Avengers is about to become almost everyone's favorite Avengers title—and with very good reason!

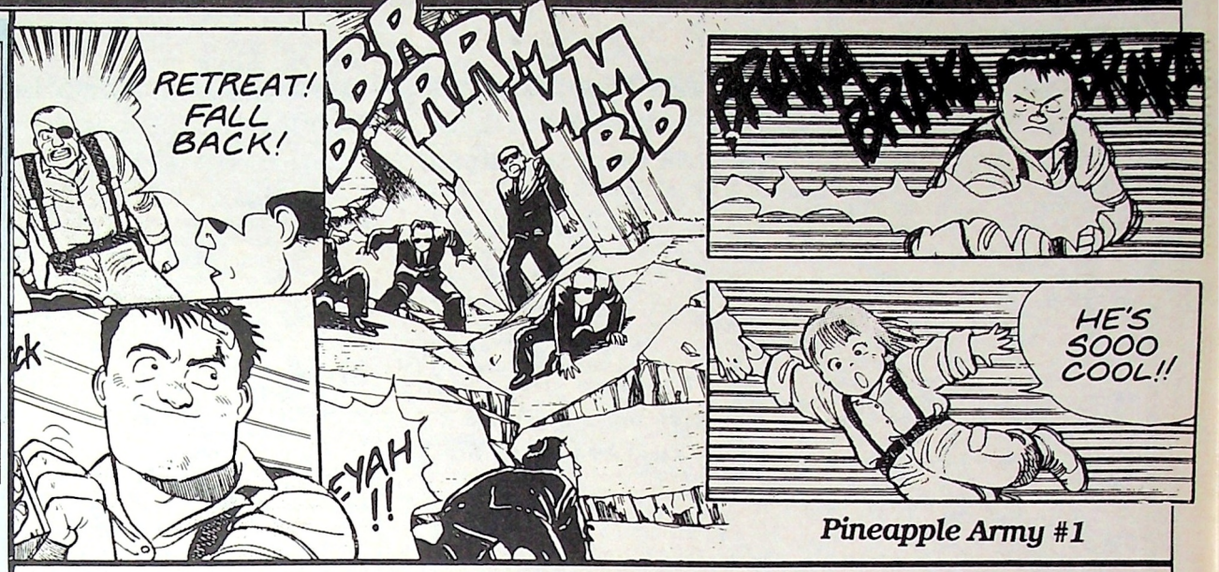
John Byrne takes over the writing and the pencilling with ***West Coast Avengers #42***, and the change is stunning. Suddenly, these characters are acting like themselves again--they have personalities that we know and can recognize. It certainly helps that John Byrne has been given, in this title, the best members of the Avengers team from the classic ***Avengers*** days of Byrne's first run on the book. Hawkeye, Wasp, Henry Pym, Scarlet Witch, and Vision. With the exception of Captain America, who's busy putting together a new team in ***The Avengers***, this core is the essential Avengers for me. It seems odd, but the spinoff gets the better characters!

The storyline, **Vision Quest**, begins with "One of Our Androids Is Missing," and it's quite a beginning indeed. The Vision is missing, and it's obvious that an attack by a fake Ultron was set up just to divert the West Coast Avengers. As they soon discover, not only is the Vision missing, but all data on the Vision in all the computers the West Coast Avengers have access to is missing as well. For all intents and purposes, the Vision has ceased to exist.

Where is Byrne going with this storyline? One thing is for sure: the Vision will be a very different character after this than he was before. (After the ending to West Coast Avengers #43, no reader can expect the Vision to be the same again). Byrne seems bent on returning the Vision to his original personality--and this is a change that I'm pretty pleased with, since I found that personality much more entertaining than the rather pedestrian one the Vision has been saddled with lately.

Byrne can write--there's no doubt of that. His comics adventures seem well suited for team books--and inexplicably, he seems much more "at home" at Marvel than he ever did at DC. Byrne is back in his element, and the ***West Coast Avengers*** have never been this good.

Art is what Byrne is well known for, however; fans of his artwork won't be disappointed. Mike Machlan's inks are extremely faithful to Byrne's pencil style, and he very well may be the second-best inker Byrne's ever had (nothing can surpass those Byrne-Ordway collaborations!), or at least a close third after Terry Austin.



Pineapple Army #1

Spicy Tales #1

Total Eclipse: The Seraphim Objective

I doubt if there's any Byrne fan who's going to be disappointed by ***West Coast Avengers #42***--and a few people who were let down by Byrne's work at DC should be pleasantly surprised.

I do have one quibble, though: who came up with "Wanj" as a nickname for Wanda? A sound effect, maybe, but a nickname?... Oh well, if an awkward nickname is Byrne's only offense on this title, he's doing quite well indeed.

From the first description that Viz Comics gave of its upcoming title ***Pineapple Army***, this was a manga that intrigued me. There are no giant robot machines, no samurai, no martial arts to speak of, no science fiction gimmicks--just a strong action-adventure comic about Jed Goshi, a Vietnam vet who now works as an instructor—a man who prepared people to be combat-ready in a very short period of time. Now that I've had the chance to read the first issue, I'm more intrigued than ever--***Pineapple Army*** is a top-notch action-adventure comic that should please fans of the ***Punisher*** as well as manga fans.

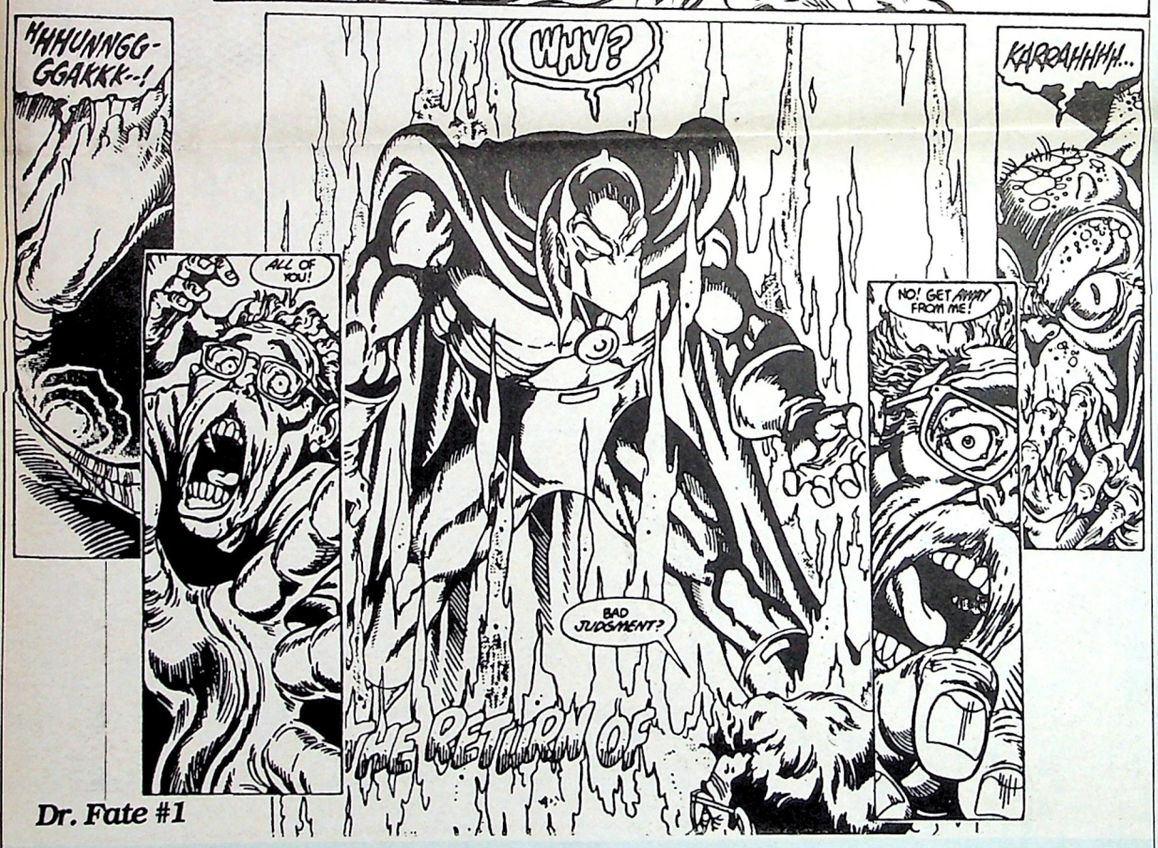
Unlike American comics, which might use long digressions and subplots to give us the background on Goshi and his history, ***Pineapple Army*** manages to use a few oblique references and a couple of flashback panels to hint at Goshi's background without bringing the flow of the storyline to a halt. That's good, because the storyline is strong enough that you'll want it to keep going uninterrupted.

A police detective is killed. His children are targeted by a mysterious Colonel Garland. Somehow, these children have two million dollars--two million dollars that their father supposedly saved--but as Goshi points out, that sort of savings plan is a little steep for a police detective. Now Goshi must train the four girls to stay alive against the attack that Garland is sure to mount.

Kazuya Kudo's story is superb; the comic pulls you into the story almost immediately, and you find yourself eager to read the next installment of the ten-issue miniseries. Naoki Urasawa's artwork is equally pleasing; his

CSN PREVIEWS & REVIEWS

West Coast Avengers #42



Dr. Fate #1

style has the sort of fine-line detail that will please American comics art fans, but enough manga touches to keep the Japanese-manga fans happy as well.

If you've been passing over a lot of manga translations because you thought you didn't like Japanese comics, then you owe it to yourself to give ***Pineapple Army*** a look--maybe you just hadn't seen the right Japanese comics.

Spicy Tales from Eternity is an odd comic indeed: what Eternity has done is to gather various comic strips from ***Spicy Detective*** and ***Spicy Western***, two popular pulps of the 1930's and 1940's that included some comics series in their pages, and present them in comic book format.

I had my doubts about ***Spicy Tales*** when I first heard the description of the book; what I foresaw were bad writing, bad art, and bad comics. What the book delivers, though, is some pretty well-constructed mystery stories with a lot of wit and humor--and just enough spiciness to make these interesting period pieces--"naughty" but far from sleazy.

Dan Turner, Hollywood Detective is my favorite of the bunch; it's a well-constructed mystery story by Robert Leslie Bellem and Adolphe Barreaux that can hold its own with any of the better done mystery comics from any company. If you want a story that plays up the "spicy" aspect of the book, then you'll probably enjoy Sally the Sleuth a bit more--this is a character who spends an inordinate amount of time in skimpy lingerie, which is just what the publishers wanted.

There's a real naive innocence to these comics; while the stories give you a lot of underwear shots and a few bound damsels in distress, none of it seems any more sleazy than an Indiana Jones adventure.

One thing you should be aware of: artistically, these stories are crafstmanlike at best, and the style is pretty generic. But if you want to see what passed for "spicy" forty or fifty years ago, then give this comic a try. There are some companion volumes planned from Eternity as well; you might want to check them out, also.

The Liberty Project stars in the first special ***Total Eclipse*** companion publication, ***The Seraphim Objective***, and the story is a pretty integral part of the ***Total Eclipse*** storyline. If you're keeping up with the multi-hero Eclipse epic, then you need to add ***The Seraphim Objective*** to your must-have list. The good thing, though, is that you don't have to be a ***Total Eclipse*** reader to enjoy this comic--writer Kurt Busiek has made the story self-explanatory enough that readers who don't know what ***Total Eclipse*** is about can catch up pretty quickly and enjoy this super-team adventure.

I never could figure out why the ***Liberty Project*** wasn't more popular; it's a super-team book featuring young heroes with an attitude, and in some ways the criminals-working-for-the-law aspect of the title was reminiscent of the far more popular ***Suicide Squad*** (it's not an imitation of the ***Suicide Squad***, though--Busiek had the concept in the works long before DC added that title to its schedule). James Fry's artwork is a little cartoony at time, but he's certainly slick, polished, and professional enough that superhero comics fans should have no problems with it. Maybe the problem is just that Eclipse isn't a company with a reputation for doing superhero team books.

Whatever the problem was, I hope ***The Seraphim Objective*** makes the Liberty Project more visible to fans who had passed it by previously. The storyline united the Liberty Project and Misery in an effort to stop The Seraphim from securing a mystic gemstone that Zzed needs to carry out his plan of destroying the Universe. Got that? The Liberty Project is convinced that the Seraphim are simply misled--while they may not care for the Earth, they certainly can't be interested *in destroying the entire universe! As you can expect, the end result is a heroes-vs.-villains* comics battle to stop the Seraphim and open their eyes to Zzed's plans.

As I said, I suspect the ***Total Eclipse*** tie-in will *bring far more people to read* ***The Seraphim Objective*** than ever read ***The Liberty Project***. I hope so, because Eclipse does have plans to bring the comic back in another form in 1989, and maybe this time it will get the readership it deserves.

Dr. Fate has been one of my favorite DC heroes since his first appearances with the Justice Society in the JLA-JSA crossovers. He's an ominous, mysterious character, and I've always suspected he could out-magic any other mystical character in existence.

Unfortunately, he's been pigeonholed in that ominous, somber mystical figure role for so long that he had become pretty stereotyped. His adventures were often too heavy, too oppressive, too cosmic, and too bogged down with seriousness and sobriety to be entertaining. Maybe it's just me, but I have a real problem with this heavy mood aspect of most mystical comics.

It looks like J.M. DeMatteis and Shawn McManus are trying to avoid going too far with this mood in the new ***Dr. Fate*** series from DC, and I'm very glad. Oh, the magic and the mood is there, but at least there's a little variety there along with it. DeMatteis has proven that he can tell both heavy, serious stories and light-hearted adventures in his writing, and he seems to be going for at least a slight touch of the light-hearted to spice up the ***Dr. Fate*** storyline. Shawn McManus is an artist who is equally adept at both moods, so he's a very good choice for the ***Dr. Fate*** series.

If you've been as bored as I have by most of the magic-comics published for the past few years, then give ***Dr. Fate*** a try--it tries something different, and that deserves some support. It also happens to be entertaining, and that may keep you coming back for more after you've read the first issue.

UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

The Upcoming Comics listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comics shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed: some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you. Publishers are sometimes forced to reschedule titles, and that might result in some date changes on some releases.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date (some publishers merely say that their books will ship in October without giving a date), we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. If a book you're looking for is on the index and doesn't arrive in a week or two after the date, be sure to ask the friendly folks at your comics shop; they may be able to update you on schedule changes that have affected that book.

Hang on to this list! It presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the next three weeks. The first ***CSN*** each month lists every title scheduled to ship to ship that month.

❑ ***Aces 4*** 10/20 Eclipse $2.95
❑ ***Action Comics Weekly 628*** 10/13 DC $1.50
❑ ***Action Comics Weekly 629*** 10/20 DC $1.50
❑ ***Action Comics Weekly 630*** 10/27 DC $1.50
❑ ***Adventures of Superman 449*** 10/27 DC .75
Invasion! crossover
❑ ***Airboy 44*** 10/13 Eclipse $1.95
❑ ***Akira 5*** 10/27 Marvel $3.50
❑ ***Alf 12*** 10/13 Marvel $1
❑ ***Alien Legion 8*** 10/27 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Alien Nation 1*** 10/20 DC $2.50
Martin Pasko and Jerry Bingham adaptation of 20th Century Fox sf film
❑ ***Aliens 3*** Dark Horse $1.95
Mark Verheiden & Mark Nelson continue their original tale of an Alien Queen on Earth and humans in search of the homeworld–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Alpha Flight 67*** 10/13 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Amazing Spider-man 312*** 10/13 Marvel $1
Inferno crossover–and continuing the Green Goblin-Hobgoblin six-part storyline–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***American Collection 1*** Dark Horse $5.95
Offering the early issues of American in one voume
❑ ***American Flagg 10*** 10/20 First $1.95
❑ ***Animal Man 6*** 10/27 DC $1.25
Invasion! Crossover
❑ ***Ant Boy 2*** Steeldragon Press $1.75
❑ ***Area 88 34*** 10/20 Eclipse $1.50
❑ ***Astro Boy 15*** 10/13 NOW $1.75
❑ ***Avengers 300*** 10/20 Marvel $1.75
64-page extravaganza featuring the new Avengers line-up–also an Inferno crossover–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Batman 428*** 10/20 DC .75
Did Robin live or die? Find out here! A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Battle©Armor 1*** Eternity $1.95
New series featuring armored battlesuits and the people in them; will tie in with role-playing game–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Black Orchid Poster*** DC $6
Dave McKean painted poster for upcoming limited series
❑ ***Bob Powell's Timeless Tales 1*** 10/20 Eclipse $2
❑ ***Brave & Bold 5*** 10/13 DC $2.50
❑ ***Brought to Light GN*** 10/20 Eclipse $8.95
Alan Moore and Bill Sienkiewicz team up to tell the story of the Iran scandal; second half by Brabner and Yeates–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Captain America 350*** 10/13 Marvel $1.75
Both Captain Americas duke it out to decide who keeps the name and the costume; plus a John Byrne backup story–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Captain Confederacy 12*** Steeldragon $1.95
The saga of Captain Confederacy comes to an end i this climactic issue–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Captain Power 1*** Continuity $2
Neal Adams art
❑ ***Cerebus 114*** Aardvark/Vanaheim $2
❑ ***Checkmate 11*** 10/13 DC $1.25
Invasion! crossover
❑ ***Classic X-Men 30*** 10/27 Marve $1
❑ ***Cloak & Dagger 3*** 10/27 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Complete Crumb Comics 3*** Fantagraphics
$14.95/$29.95
Continuing series reprinting Crumb's work in chronological order; both tpb and hc editions
❑ ***Conan 215*** 10/20 Marvel $1
❑ ***Conan of the Isles GN*** 10/27 Marvel $8.95
Adaptation of Carter/de Camp novel about Conan in his later years
❑ ***Conan Saga 21*** 10/27 Marvel $2
❑ ***Cosmic Heroes 1*** Eternity $1.95
Reprinting Buck Rogers comic strips
❑ ***Cosmic Odyssey 2*** 10/13 DC $3.50
Jim Starlin & Mike Mignola unit some of DC's mightiest heroes with Darkseid and the New Gods–will lead into New Gods series–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Dark Horse Presents 24*** Dark Horse $1.75
Featuring an Aliens story by Verheiden & Nelson–A CSN Hot Pick

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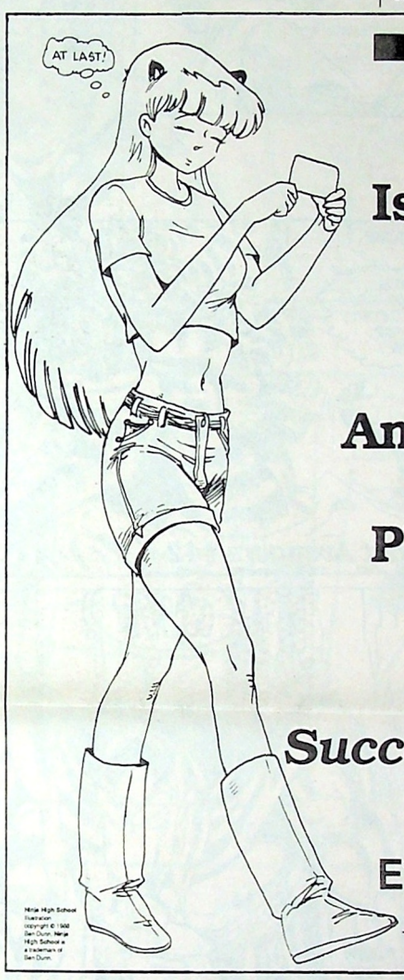

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UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

❑ **Dark Wolf 8** Eternity $1.95
❑ **Deadshot 4** 10/20 DC $1
Final issue of limited series spin-off from Suicide Squad
❑ **Den 3** Fantagor $2
Richard Corben series aimed at a more general audience
❑ **Dino-Riders 1** 10/27 Marvel $1
First issue of toy tie-in by Caragonne & K. Jones – this series will be a part of the Marvel Action Universe animated series
❑ **Dinosaurs for Hire 3-D 1** Eternity $2.95
Reprinting the first issue in 3-D
❑ **Disney Album 13** 10/27 Gladstone $5.95
Featuring the Golden Helmet plus two other Carl Barks stories
❑ **Doc Savage 4** 10/13 DC $1.75
❑ **Donald Duck Adventures 11** 10/13 Gladstone .95
Featuring an all-new Don Rosa story that is a sequel to a classic Carl Barks tale–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Doom Patrol 17** 10/27 DC $1
Invasion! crossover
❑ **DP 7 28** 10/13 Marvel $1.50
❑ **Dr. Zero 5** 10/20 Marvel $1.50
❑ **Dragonlance 3** 10/20 DC $1.25
DC comic based on TSR game
❑ **Elric: Bane of the Black Sword 4** 10/27 First $1.95
❑ **Fantastic Four 323** 10/27 Marvel .75
Inferno crossover
❑ **Firestorm 80** 10/13 DC $1
Invasion! crossover–special guest artist Tom Grindberg signs on for a six-issue stint
❑ **Flash 21** 10/13 DC $1
Invasion! crossover
❑ **Flash Gordon 9** 10/27 JDC $1.25
❑ **Forgotten Forest of Oz GN** 10/27 FIrst $8.95
Eric Shanower graphic novel set in L. Frank Baum's famous fantasy milieu–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Freak Bros. Library 3** RipOff $7.95
❑ **GI Joe 83** 10/20 Marvel $1
❑ **Ginger Fox 2** 10/13 Comico $1.75
Mike Baron and the Pander Bros. continue this new limited series set in the darker side of Hollywood–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Green Arrow 13** 10/20 DC $1.25
❑ **Grey 1** Viz $2.95
New manga translation series mark's Viz' debut entry into the American comics market–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Grey Illustrations** Viz $12.95
Portfolio of artwork from the award-winning series
❑ **Grimjack 55** 10/13 First $1.95
John Ostrander is joined by new series artist Flint Henry–this is one mean Grimjack!–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Groo 48** 10/13 Marvel $1
❑ **Hawk & Dove 5** 10/13 DC $1
❑ **Hawkmoon: Count Bass 1** 10/27 First $1.95
❑ **Haywire 5** 10/20 DC $1.25
❑ **Heathcliff 30** 10/13 Marvel $1
❑ **Hellblazer 14** 10/20 DC $1.25
❑ **Incredible Hulk 352** 10/20 Marvel .75
How did the Hulk survive the gamma blast and end up in Las Vegas? Find out here!
❑ **Invasion! 1** 10/13 DC $2.95
Giffen and McFarlane introduce the DC crossover series extraganza of 1988!–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Iran/Contra Trading Cards** Eclipse $7.95
❑ **Iron Man 239** 10/27 Marvel .75
❑ **Jezebel Jade 1** 10/13 Comico $2
Messner-Loebs & Adam Kubert present a look into Race Bannon's past in this limited series–Jonny Quest spinoff–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Jonny Quest 29** 10/20 Comico $1.75
❑ **Jonny Quest Special 2** 10/13 Comico $2
❑ **Justice 28** 10/20 Marvel $1.50
❑ **Justice League International 22** DC .75
Invasion! crossover
❑ **Kamui 34** 10/13 Eclipse $1.50
❑ **Kamui 35** 10/20 Eclipse $1.50
❑ **Krazy & Ignatz 2** 10/20 Eclipse $9.95
Reprinting the classic comic strip in quality format
❑ **Legion of Super-Heroes 55** 10/20 DC $1.75
❑ **Li'l Abner Volume 3** Kitchen Sink $16.95
Quality reprinting of the Al Capp strip in chronological order–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Light & Darkness War 3** 10/20 Marvel $1.95
Veitch & Kennedy tell the story of Vietnam vets in the eternal battle between good and evil in another world
❑ **Lone Wolf & Cub Deluxe Edition** First $19.95
Frank Miller & Bill Sienkiewicz collaborate on the cover for this deluxe reprinting of the first 6 issues of the hot First comic–plus new interior illustrations by a variety of artists–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Long March 1** Amusement $3.95
Featuring Lt. Blueberry by Jean-Michael Chartier & Jean (Moebius) Giraud–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Love & Rockets 29** Fantagraphics $2.50
❑ **Machine Man TPB** 10/13 Marvel $6.95
Reprinting the Defalco/Trimpe/Windsor-Smith limited series
❑ **Manhunter 8** 10/13 DC $1
Invasion! crossover
❑ **Marvel Age 71** 10/20 Marvel .50
❑ **Marvel Comics 13** 10/20 Marvel $1.25
The Panther's Quest by McGregor/Colan, Colossus by Claremont/Leonardi, and more
❑ **Marvel Fanfare 42** 10/20 Marvel $1.95
Carl Potts and Terry Shoemaker present a story of Spidey in his black costume
❑ **Marvel Tales 220** 10/20 Marvel .75
❑ **Marvel Masterworks 5: Spider-man** 10/13 Marvel $29.95
Reprinting Amazing Spider-man 11-20 in quality hardcover–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Marvel Masterworks 6: Fantastic Four** 10/27 Marvel $29.95
Reprinting Fantastic Four 11-20 in quality hardcover–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Nam Magazine 7** 10/13 Marvel $2
❑ **New Archies 11** 10/20 Archie .75
❑ **New Mutants 72** 10/13 Marvel $1
Inferno crossover
❑ **New Titans 52** 10/27 DC $1.75
Wolfman & Perez present the origin of Wonder Girl, part 3–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Next Nexus 2** 10/20 First $1.95
Baron and Rude present the hunt for Horatio Hellpop's replacement–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Ninja High School Special Edition 2** Eternity $2.25
❑ **Pigeons From Hell GN** 10/13 Eclipse $7.95
Scott Hampton adaptation of classic Robert E. Howard short story–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Plastic Man 2** 10/20 DC $1
The original stretchable sleuth is back!
❑ **Power of the Atom 7** 10/27 DC $1
Invasion! crossover
❑ **Prisoner 3** 10/27 $3.50
A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Punisher 16** 10/20 Marvel $1
❑ **Racer-X 4** 10/13 NOW $1.75
❑ **Ralph Snart Adventures 4** 10/13 NOW $1.75
❑ **Robotech: Macross Saga 32** 10/20 Comico $1.75
❑ **Rust v.2 1** 10/13 NOW $1.75
Beginning an all new Rust series; the story takes a new direction and the art is fully painted by Vince Locke–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Sable 12** 10/27 First $1.95
❑ **Savage Sword of Conan 156** 10/13 Marvel $2
❑ **Scout: War Shaman 7** 10/27 Eclipse $1.95
❑ **Secret Origins 35** 10/20 DC $1.50
Featuring the Martian Mannunter, Booster Gold, and Maxwell Lord in the final Secret Origins of the JLI issue–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ **Sgt. Rock Special 2** 10/20 DC $2
❑ **Shadow 19** 10/27 DC $1.75
The Avenger continues in the Shadow's place–but is the Shadow really dead?
❑ **Sherlock Holmes 6** Eternity $1.95
❑ **Silver Surfer 20** 10/20 Marvel $1
❑ **Solo Avengers 15** 10/13 Marvel .75

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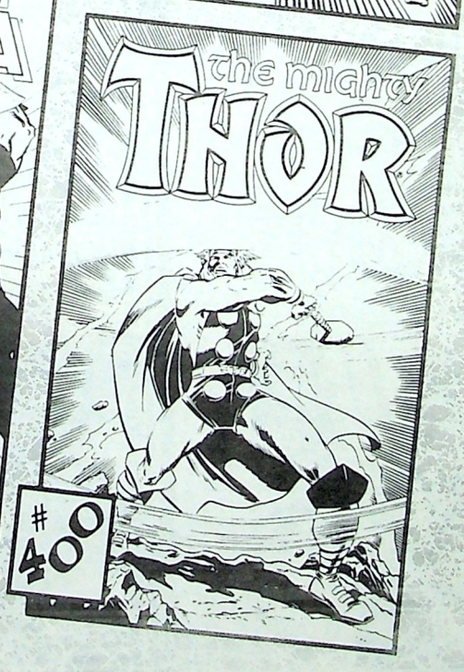

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UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

Featuring Hawkeye & Black Widow and Starfox
❑ ***Spectacular Spider-man 147*** 10/27 Marvel $1
Inferno crossover, continuing the story Hobgoblin/Green Goblin story–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Spectre 22*** 10/6 DC $1.25
Invasion! crossover
❑ ***Speed Racer 16*** 10/13 NOW $1.75
❑ ***Speedball 6*** 10/27 Marvel .75
❑ ***Spicy Tales 3*** Eternity 41.95
❑ ***Spirit 48*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑ ***St. George 4*** 10/13 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Starlog 137*** 10/13 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Starman 5*** 10/27 DC $1
Invasion! crossover
❑ ***Steve Canyon 22*** Kitchen Sink $11.95
Presenting a complete Steve Canyon adventure, "Formosa's Straits"
❑ ***Stray Toasters 2*** 10/13 Marvel $3.50
Bill Sienkiewicz-written and painted limited series about psychotic killers and machines gone wild in the future–a CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Sub-Mariner 4*** 10/20 Marvel $1.50
History of Namor continues through the WWII years
❑ ***Superman 26*** 10/20 DC .75
Invasion! crossover
❑ ***Swamp Thing 81*** 10/27 DC $1.25
Invasion! crossover
❑ ***Tailgunner Jo 6*** 10/20 DC $1.25
Final issue of Gillis/Artis limited series
❑ ***Tales of the Beanworld 11*** 10/20 Eclipse $2
❑ ***Tales of GI Joe 14*** 10/6 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Team Yankee 5*** 10/13 First $1.95
❑ ***Team Yankee 6*** 10/20 First $1.95
Final three issues in weekly series based on Harold Coyle's novel about a conventional WWIII in Western Europe–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Terminator 4*** 10/6 NOW $1.75
❑ ***The Mark 6*** Dark Horse $1.75
❑ ***The Nam 27*** 10/27 Marvel $1.25
❑ ***The Wild 2*** Eastern $1.50
Bi-weekly series set in contemporary Korea
❑ ***Thor 400*** 10/27 Marvel $1.75
Anniversary issue features the climax to Asgardian wars–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Total Eclipse 3*** Eclipse $3.95
Limited series uniting the Eclipse heroes continues under Wolfman, Hampton, and Bryant–A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Transformers 49*** 10/27 Marvel $1
❑ ***Trouble With Girls 14*** Eternity $1.95
❑ ***Twilight Avenger 4*** Eternity $1.95
Wooley & Tidwell's pulp-inspired hero continues in new adventures
❑ ***Twist 3*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑ ***Uncle Scrooge 233*** 10/27 Gladstone .95
❑ ***Unknown Soldier 2*** 10/27 DC $1.50
This issue gives some insight into the Unknown Soldier's origin
❑ ***Usagi Yojimbo 13*** Fantagraphics $2
❑ ***V for Vendetta 6*** 10/13 DC $2
❑ ***Victims 3*** Eternity $1.95
❑ ***Walt Disney's Comics & Stories 536*** 10/13 Gladstone .95
❑ ***Whisper 21*** 10/13 First $1.95
❑ ***Wolverine 4*** 10/13 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Wonder Woman 25*** 10/13 DC $1
Invasion! crossover–Chris Marrinan debuts as series artis
❑ ***X-Factor 37*** 10/27 Marvel $1
Inferno crossover
❑ ***X-Men 241*** 10/20 Marvel $1
Inferno crossover
❑ ***X-Thieves GN 2*** Comics Interview $6.50
❑ ***Xanadu 5*** Thoughts & Images $2
❑ ***Xenon 21*** 10/13 Eclipse $1.50
❑ ***Xenon 22*** 10/27 Eclipse $1.50
❑ ***Young All-Stars 21*** 10/13 DC 41.50
❑ ***Zero Patrol 5*** Continuity $2

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